

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /065 W

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R 121500Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7514

INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMCONSUL DOUALA BY POUCH

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E.GO. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, EK, NI

SUBJECT: EQUATORIAL GUINEA: NIGERIANS DIE IN ATTEMPT ESCAPE E.G.

REF: A. YAOUNDE 0098; B. YAOUNDE A-111, DEC 15, 1975;

C. DOUALA A-14, OCT 22, 1975

1. SUMMARY. EQUATORIAL GUINEA NIGERIAN EXODUS MARRED BY JAN 7-8 INCIDENT RESULTING ABOUT EIGHT NIGERIAN DEATHS AND DEPARTURE NIGERIAN SHIP WITHOUT BULK OF INTENDED PASSENGERS. END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING ACCOUNT, IN MORE DETAIL THAN REF A, PIECEZKTOGETHER FROM PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS DOUALA CONSUL MITHOEFER AND CONVERSATIONS DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUES MALABO. NIGHT JAN 7, GOEG DEMANDED NIGERIANS HAND OVER A BUBI NAMED CORREA WHO WAS SUSPECTED OF ATTEMPTING LEAVE ISLAND WITH NIGERIAN REFUGEES. APPARENTLY TWO ARMED CIVIL GUARDS ENTERED COMPOUND NIGERIAN EMBASSY IN ATTEMPT FIND HIM. ONE CIVIL GUARD WAS DISARMED AND ROUGHED UP BEFORE RELEASED, OTHER FLED.

3. MORNING JAN 8, MILITIA AND CIVIL GUARD STARTED BEATING NIGER-

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IANS WITH LONG POLES AND LEATHER WHIPS. ESTIMATED 8,000 NIGER-

IANS ASSEMBLED TO BOARD SHIP AND IN ENSUING PANIC, THEY FLED IN TERROR TRYING CLIMB OVER FENCES AND GATES. AT NIGERIAN EMBASSY COMPOUND, BALCONY COLLAPSED. EST EIGHT DIED AND FORTY-EIGHT INJURED. IN TOUR OF AREA ABOUT 0915 CONSUL SAW DON DANIEL OYONO, PRESIDENCY SECRETARY GENERAL, IN COMPANY OF CIVIL GUARD OFFICIALS WITH WEAPONS AT THE READY PATROLLING AREA.

4. NIGERIAN AMBASSADOR BASSEY HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN TOLD THAT M/S NNAMDI AZIKIWE REQUIRED LEAVE BY 1000 JAN 8 IN ORDER THAT SHIP LOADING COCOA COULD DOCK. AZIKIWE LEFT WITH BETWEEN ONE AND TWO THOUSAND NIGERIANS ON BOARD, BUT WITH HOUSEHOLD GOODS OF MANY THOUSANDS WHO WERE LEFT BEHIND.

5. AMB BASSEY, FOREIGN MINISTER BONAFACIO NGUEMA ESONO NCHAMA AND PRESIDENCY SECRETARY GENERAL DANIEL OYONO HAD MEETING SHORTLY AFTER INCIDENT. RESULTS UNKNOWN. HOWEVER, BASSEY ANNOUNCED THAT FOUR PLANE AIRLIFT EXPECTED BEGIN SHORTLY AND TWO SHIPS EXPECTED WITHIN WEEK TO CONTINUE EVACUATION. IN ADDITION APPROXIMATELY 8,000 STRANDED MALABO WITHOUT EFFECTS, THERE ARE ALSO 10-14,000 NIGERIANS REMAINING IN THEIR HOMES AWAITING EVACUATION. GANGS OF CIVIL GUARDS AND MILITIA REPORTEDLY HAVE BEGUN LOOTING MANY ABANDONED AND SOME STILL-OCCUPIED NIGERIAN PREMISES.

6. LOCAL RUMOR HAS IT THAT CORREA, OSTENSIBLE CAUSE OF DISTURBANCE, HAD ALREADY EMBARKED ON SHIP AND THUS, IF TRUE, REACHED NIGERIA.

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Message Attributes

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